DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 368 826 UD 029 813

AUTHOR	Riddell, Sheila I.
TITLE	Gender and the Politics of the Curriculum.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-415-04813-3
PUB DATE	92
NOTE	272p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Routledge, 29 West 35 Street, New York, NY 10001 ($69.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Case Studies; *Course Selection (Students); *Curriculum; Decision Making; Family Influence; Foreign Countries; Labor Market; Peer Influence; Secondary Education; Secondary School Students; *Self Concept; Sex Bias; Sex Differences; *Sexual Identity
IDENTIFIERS	Choice Behavior; *England; *National Curriculum

ABSTRACT

This book uses detailed case studies of two secondary schools in England to examine the relationship between curriculum choice and gender identity among 14-year-old students making their first choices about what to pursue at examination level. It reveals a two-way process. Pupils' decisions on what to take are influenced by how they perceive themselves in gender terms, and the curriculum once chosen reinforces their sense of gender divisions. Influences of peers, family, the labor market, and teachers are examined. It is argued that the belief in freedom of choice and school neutrality espoused by many teachers can become an important factor in the reproduction of gender divisions, and that unless the introduction of the national curriculum is accompanied by systematic efforts to eradicate sexism from the hidden curriculum it will fail to create greater equality of educational opportunity among the sexes. Five figures and 57 tables illustrate the discussion. An additional five tables in an appendix summarize research methodology. (Contains 158 references.) (Author/SLD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****